

VANGUARDS

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 500TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE "PACIFIC VANGUARDS"

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

*FIGHTING FIRES
ONE DAY...*

*TRAINING UNITS THE NEXT:
HOW THE 15TH MI BN
EMPLOYS UAS IN GARRISON*

VANGUARDS

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Take charge of your future: Are you in or are you out?

As the new fiscal year approaches, one thing is clear – we are an Army in transition! With the close of FY11, there has been much talk and worry about the upcoming changes to the force. While change is a good thing, the rumors have left many questioning where the 500th MI BDE will be headed. The command group would like to take the time to address in this column where the Brigade stands, where we are headed, and how this will affect our Soldiers, civilians, contractors, and Family members.

In the last issue we said that it was up to you to make yourself competitive in order to have the career you desire. With the drawdown from combatant operations on multiple fronts to a focus possibly more on domestic issues, it has become more important than ever that you decide where you stand. Although there are certain things beyond your control, the best thing to do to alleviate any uncertainty about your career is to take charge of it!

Now is the time to take a good hard look at the work you are doing and decide “am I in, or am I out?” Are you not only meeting, but EXCEEDING the standards and goals you have set for yourself? Are you actively pursuing new goals and challenges, or have you been content to just float along? While

the current wars are drawing down, there is still a mission to do and a warfighter to support. Those who stand above the rest to shine in their efforts should not be worried about where they will stand when the chips fall. If you haven’t already, the deadline to decide whether to sink or swim is quickly approaching.

This will affect us all in different ways, for both our military and civilian workforce. For the civilians, the 500th MI BDE has not been tasked to eliminate any positions that are currently filled at this time. INSCOM has been methodically determining where cuts are to be made but they are cognizant of the fact that there is still a mission to be accomplished and those who are actively engaged in the effort will continue to serve.

For our Soldiers, these changes will mean huge changes to how we train. The Army will be doing more at home station starting FY12. With the slow-down in operations tempo, the Army will also be tasked with doing many of the things that we have become accustomed to having contractors do for us. This will seem unpleasant, as it includes unenviable tasks such as assisting with checking IDs at the front gate and cleaning the office space. There will be less MTTs sent out, and there will be

less use of contractors as the Army focuses on doing more of its tasks in-house.

Now is the time to decide, will you take the challenges ahead and thrive in the face of adversity, or will you sit and complain about it? Is this where you truly want to be, and if so, what are you doing to let those around you know it? Even in times of adversity, there will always be opportunities for those who work hard to stand above the crowd and drive forward. Now is the time to decide where you are headed, otherwise someone else may make the decision for you.



Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Fairley

Fighting Fires One Day, How the 15th MI Battalion

*Written by Maj. Brook W. Bedell
15th Military Intelligence Battalion S-3*

It was a month ago at a III Corps command update brief when a tenant unit battalion commander mentioned to a group of brigade and division commanders that help is there if they need it. It was the beginning of a paradigm shift in the way UAS could support the Corps units in garrison operations. The first one to request the UAS support was Fort Hood Fire Chief, Billy Rhoades. It was on the 7th and 9th of September that the 15th Military Intelligence Battalion's Hunter Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) provided aerial support to Fort Hood's Directorate of Emergency Services as Soldiers and firefighters battled with ongoing wildfires. Using the live feed, Mr. Rhoades was then in a position to move firefighters to best contain the blaze.

The extreme drought conditions in Texas have left their mark on Fort Hood over the past month from multiple fires that have charred thousands of acres. Due to the immense size of the wildfires on post, the 15th MI Battalion aerial assets are able to provide indispensable video footage of areas that would otherwise be inaccessible from the ground. Using the UAS, firefighters were able to locate hotspots and monitor the movement of fires.

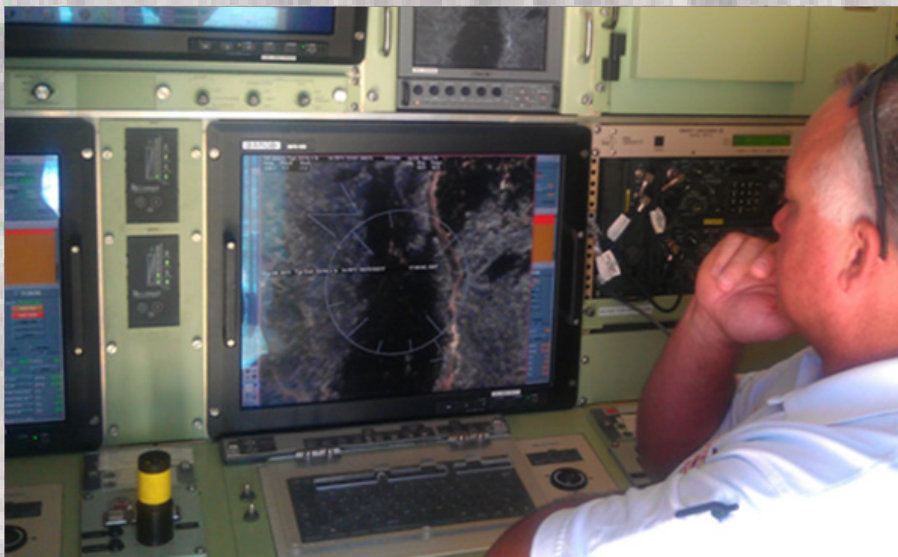
After watching the success of UAS support to firefighters, Ron Gerner, Director of Aviation Operation at Fort Hood said in a message to the garrison commander, Col. Mark Freitag, "It would be a good idea to pursue use of this potentially valuable asset for fire fighting and perhaps other uses within the garrison."

It was shortly after this message circulated around the leaders of Fort Hood that Division West called upon the 15th for support. First Army's Division West (located at Fort Hood), conducts

training readiness oversight and mobilization of designated active and reserve component forces in the western area of responsibility in order to provide trained and ready forces to regional combatant commanders. Division West conducts battle focused, tough, realistic training to provide equipped and ready Soldiers, units and leaders for the combatant commanders. One of those training areas is counter-improvised explosive device lanes.

On 20 September, the 15th MI Battalion supported Division West as they conducted IED Lanes with a deploying National Guard unit. Using the One System Remote Video Terminal (OS-RVT) the units viewed the video feed in real time, enhancing situational awareness and providing realistic training of working with UAS. This UAS capability helped the unit identify IEDs ahead of the convoy which ultimately increased the convoy's ability to respond to injected training scenarios. Furthermore, this mission support will provide deploying Soldiers with hands on training of receiving UAS video feeds and coordinating UAS support.

Traditionally, the objective of flights for the 15th MI Battalion has been in support of internal progression and currency requirements. The shift to supporting Fort Hood units has provided many unique training opportunities for both UAS operators and ground units. It increases the training value or in the case of firefighting, situational understanding and the 15th MI Battalion benefits as it allows UAS operators to train tasks in garrison that they will be required to perform in theater, such as convoy overwatch, and route recons. The 15th MI Battalion plans to continue supporting Fort Hood units whenever possible to expose units to the capabilities of UAS.



Fort Hood Fire Chief, Billy Rhoades, examines Hunter's real-time Full Motion Video of areas burned in the ongoing wildfires.

Training Units the Next: Employs UAS in Garrison



The Division West C-IED convoy lanes used by deploying units. Each checkpoint represents a different scenario encountered by the training unit. UAS live feed to the unit provides a forecast of issues or possible IED emplacement on the route and enhances the storyboard for debriefing after the exercise.



15th MI Hunter UAS successfully takes off. (Photo by CW2 Joseph Meyers)

Giving Back: The 205th Help



Participants enjoyed games such as Bocce ball in Pearl City.

Story and Photos by Sgt. David Padilla
500th Military Intelligence Brigade

To some Saturday usually means a day to get away and rest from work's daily grind. It's a day where people can wake up late, watch cartoons, enjoy a relaxing breakfast and recharge their batteries.

To others this day is the only day that they can have the time to give back to their local community and spend time doing volunteer work that brings them closer to their community.

Soldiers of the 205th MI Battalion are among the people within the 500th MI Brigade that sacrifice their leisure time to help the people in their community in exchange for one thing, the feeling of accomplishment.

Recently conducting volunteer work for the Special Olympic soccer competition, the Soldiers of the 205th have been actively giving back to their community.

"I enjoy helping people in whatever way that I can," said Sgt. Susan Ghalieh, assigned to the 205th MI Battalion and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the battalion's community outreach program. "My favorite part of volunteering is helping out children.

Although Ghalieh had been helping others throughout her

years in high school, one of her more memorable experiences occurred during a humanitarian exercise in the Philippines.

Some time in 2009 while assigned to a Special Operations unit, she took part in a medical humanitarian exercise in which she did medical procedures for the local community.

She conducted various medical tasks from checking blood pressure, to assisting with dental work for children and adults, Ghalieh said.

During that same year Ghalieh was able to help out at an orphanage in Thailand. While there she helped children diagnosed with HIV fight the disease by bringing the children love, compassion and fun. Knowing that during her time there she helped out many children was very meaningful to her.

Other Soldiers within the battalion have been volunteering throughout their lifetime and are now doing the same work as part of the 205th's Community Outreach program.

Pfc. Claudia Mendoza started doing volunteer work during her junior year of high school, but her volunteer work would have a change in focus.

Having mostly conducted work with animals, the battalion's outreach program has been giving her an opportunity to work

Stand Out The Special Olympics



Volunteers work in a tent to get a break from the harsh sun

with people with disabilities and interact with the local community, adding a whole new perspective to her experience.

Recently, Mendoza assisted with the Special Olympics Soccer Competition. Setting up tents, placing Bocce field boundaries and assembling awards were some of her contributions that made the competition a success.

"It was actually really fun and afterwards I felt that it was really rewarding...you just made them happy when you would just help them out like throw softballs at them and encourage them."

Presently Ghalieh is focusing on showing the importance of community relations to the battalion soldiers and how lending a helping hand can help them develop individually and in the community.

She wants the 205th Soldiers to stand out in the community and show that the Soldiers are doing the right thing and setting an example for others to follow, Ghalieh said.

Now Mendoza also has her mind set on continuing to work hard to help others and earn the sense of accomplishment that comes with it.

"I would rather volunteer than maybe just go out down to Waikiki because you can go down there any time you want, but for a volunteering event it's just one day out of your life that you can," Mendoza said.



Carefully putting together blue rubbions for participants

Now that Ghalieh and Mendoza have made volunteering a part of their lives, many more days of helping others are in their future.

"Honestly it's a personal thing what drives me to volunteer," Ghalieh said. "It's a sense of accomplishment and putting a smile on a person's face. That's what keeps me going."



USARPAC'S Tactical SIGINT C



ABOVE: Delta Company Soldiers: Pfc. Abdiel Alvarez, Pfc. Marcus Maple, Pfc. Julian Perez, Sgt. Jon Turpin, Staff Sgt. Donnie Sidell, Sgt. Travis Hudge, 1st Sgt. Don Doucette, Pfc. Ryan Craun at Kandahar Airfield. (Photo taken by 1st Lt. Sean Hayball)



RIGHT: Sgt. Brendan Damon with a local afghan child in RC(SW). (Photo taken by Spc. Brandan Kaylor)

By Cpt. Justine Wong
Delta Company Commander, 715th Military Intelligence Battalion

In July of 2010, 26 Diamondback Soldiers from Delta Company, 715th Military Intelligence Battalion began their yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan in order to provide Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) support to the war fighter.

"Their focus was the deliberate targeting of High Value Individuals (HVIs) in support of the brigade and battalion commanders' targeting guidance and priorities," says Company First Sergeant Donald Doucette, who deployed with the teams.

Dispersed throughout the southern and southwestern regions of Afghanistan, Delta Company Soldiers are doing exactly that. According to Doucette, "They have conducted over 130 SIGINT Terminal Guidance (STG) operations that resulted in the capture of over 100 insurgents."

Attached to elements of the 10th Mountain Division (10th MTN), 4th Infantry Division (4th ID), 101st Airborne Division (101st ABN AASLT) and II Marine Expeditionary Force/1st Marine Radio Battalion (1st RAD), Delta Company Soldiers are truly fulfilling the tactical SIGINT role that they were trained to do. Providing a variety of technical SIGINT capabilities to

both Army and Marine units, Delta Company Soldiers conduct collection, reporting, analysis, STG and Low Level Voice Intercept (LLVI) operations in support of the war fighter.

As part of 10th MTN's Regional Deconfliction Cell (RDC), Doucette proudly claims "Our RDC was the first fully operational RDC within the Afghanistan Theater of Operations and worked to establish a theater-wide standard for RDC and STG operations with the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command and US Forces-Afghanistan senior intelligence leaders."

The RDC responsibilities include the deconfliction of aerial and ground targeting operations in order to prevent Radio Frequency interference and the management of the Aerial Target Deck. Additionally, the RDC provides support to the Battle Space Owners (BSOs) by ensuring that aerial assets are available to ground forces in order to successfully target HVIs, or quickly redirecting assets to support time-sensitive operations.

The analysts, STG and LLVI teams supporting Southern and Southwestern Afghanistan provide real-time targetable intelligence on insurgents, indications and

warnings and sensitive site exploitation support to the ground forces.

Spc. James St. Clair, who supported 1-75 CAV, 101st ABN AASLT, describes his team as an asset, "that provided critical data in order to support time sensitive targeting operations and were the sole providers of specialized SIGINT within their assigned [Area of Operations (AO)]."

According to Doucette, targeting operations focus on the disruption of key Taliban and Al Qaida Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and weapons trafficking cells, as well as increased freedom of movement and stability for Coalition Forces and the civilian populace within the AO. "STG targeting plays a critical role in Counterinsurgency Operations due to the fact that it involves the deliberate targeting of key individuals, does not disrupt the daily lives of civilians within the AO and provides civilian populace with a sense of security due to the removal of enemy personnel" stated Doucette.

When not engaged with a mission, the teams work to assist in the development of target packages, target refinement operations, critical mission planning and rehearsals and mounted and dismounted patrols with the supported action arm in

Company Takes on Afghanistan



Aboard a C-130, Back to front Left side: Sgt. Matthew Parks and Sgt. Zach Ritter; Right side: Spc. Matthew Reif, Staff Sgt. Tristan Peltier, Pfc. Cody McKinney and Pfc. David Ocampo. (Photo taken by Sgt. Zach Ritter)

order to remain on constant 24/7 alert for time-sensitive targeting operations.

Spc. St. Clair recalls that during the first few months of the deployment, "A critical component to successful operations was making sure that the BCT and battalion commanders understood how we were a benefit to their mission, so my team leader Staff Sgt. Fisher would brief our capabilities and limitations on a regular basis."

According to Doucette, due to the competence of the operators, our teams have been selected to train Multi-Function Teams (MFTs) within the AO as well. The impact these Soldiers have made on the war in Afghanistan is "a testament to the success of integrating tactical and strategic SIGINT training," says Lt. Col. Dave Perrine, Commander of the 715th MI Battalion.

"Prior to the deployment," Perrine says, "these tactical SIGINT Soldiers spent weeks working a strategic SIGINT mission. With the surge in Afghanistan, they were called upon to put their tactical SIGINT skills back into action. Their ability to proficiently execute both tactical and strategic SIGINT is an example of how agile today's military intelligence professionals have become since 9/11."



Delta Company Soldiers: Pfc. Julian Perez, Sgt Travis Hudge, Staff Sgt. Donnie Sidell, Pfc. Marcus Maple, Sgt. Jon Turpin, Spc. Abdiel Alvarez at Camp Nathan Smith. (Photo taken by Staff Sgt. Donnie Sidell)

“Spartan” Company Solo

*Story and photos by Sgt. David Padilla
500th Military Intelligence Brigade*

Soldiers in today’s Army have to remain proficient at their jobs while at the same time maintaining their training edge in their basic warrior tasks and drills.

Soldiers of Alpha Company, 715th Military Intelligence Battalion, 500th Military Intelligence Brigade had an opportunity, June 15, to hone their warfighter skills by conducting convoy operations training at the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer (RVTT).

“I want the Soldiers to have a strong base of knowledge about convoy operations so they can be ready when in a deployed environment,” said Cpt. John F. Wiebeld, commander of Alpha Company, 715th MI Battalion.

After receiving their initial safety briefing, the first stop for the Soldiers was the RVTT.

Here the Soldiers were given the opportunity to improve on their knowledge of convoy operations. While in the training simulator, the Soldiers maintained vehicle intervals, identified and reacted to enemy fire and practiced radio communication. Simulated guntrucks, weapons and radio communications equipment added a sense of realism and allowed for a better training experience compared to a live fire exercise.

“When doing a live fire it’s hard to stop and talk about things,” said Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Curtis, Alpha Company operations noncommissioned officer in charge. “In the simulator I can run through it many times and I can add obstacles at will allowing for more situational control.”

Convoy operations were not the only training offered to the Soldiers. The company took advantage of their time and conducted additional training.

Once finished with the convoy simulators, the Soldiers moved on to site exploitation training.

During this time, the Soldiers were trained on what to look for when search-



Staff Sgt. Jermaine K. Ocean, assigned to Company A, handles a MK-19 automatic grenade launcher and looks out for enemy activity during a simulated convoy operation at the RVTT June 15, at Schofield Barracks.

ing through an area formerly occupied by enemy forces. The training showed the Soldiers how regular household items such as music players, books and computers can be important sources of information.

“It’s not just wandering through a building and picking stuff up as you go,” Curtis said. “It’s a controlled, by the book method of intel collection.”

Lastly, the Soldiers finished their round robin training with hands on biometrics

data collection training.

The Soldiers simulated biometric data collection among themselves by use of the Handheld Interagency Identification Detection Equipment, Secure Electronic Enrollment Kit and Fusion, all of which are distinct biometric collection devices.

All in all the Soldiers of Alpha Company, improved on their basic warrior tasks and were able to train hands on with equipment some of them had never used.

“It was new training and training I thought we would never do,” said Pvt. Natalie Parker, Alpha Company, 71st MI Battalion. “I believe everyone should do it.”



Pvt. Natalie Parker collects a fingerprint from another Soldier, June 15, during training at the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Training area.



A Soldier collects a thumb print, during biometric collection training, June 15, at the RVTT.

Soldiers Sharpen Their Edge



Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Curtis, operations noncommissioned officer in charge, conducts an After Action review following a simulated convoy operation, June 15, at the Reconfigurable Vehical Tactical Training area.



Soldiers receive Site Exploitation Training, June 15, at the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer.



A Spartan Company Soldier drives a humvee during convoy operations training, June 15, at the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical trainer. The company took advantage of the day, conducting training on various battle drills and a variety of equipment.

715th: Training to Save Lives

Story by Cpt. Aaron Ford

715th Military Intelligence Battalion

Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Operations Company, 715th MI Battalion, 500th MI Brigade conducted a medical obstacle course, April 20, at Bellows Air Force Station Hawaii.

Prior to the obstacle course, HOC conducted, April 8, Individual First Aid Kit training. The primary trainer for the event was Norbert L. Lieberknecht, the Site Lead of the Medical Simulation Training Center, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. His opening words made the purpose of the training clear "Simulation saves lives!"

When shots are fired or an improvised explosive device explodes Soldiers transition to lifesavers.

"Many Soldiers survive initial wounds sustained during combat and unfortunately bleed out on the battlefield," Lieberknecht said. "Statistics have shown that 1200 Soldiers' lives have been saved as a result of combat lifesavers. The number one reason our Soldiers are dying in combat is through loss of blood."

The training caused Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cressy, assigned to HOC, to focus on the hard reality of combat and the need for more lifesaving training.

Motivated by this he developed a scenario driven, combat speed, physical training medical obstacle course. He also took advantage of the unique opportunity of being in Hawaii and executed the training along the beach at Bellows Air Force Station.

"When setting up the training event I thought back to the international competitions that I participated in while stationed in Germany and how they were set up as obstacle courses," Cressy said. "After being physically exhausted from the course they seemed to really put your soldiering skills to the test. What better way to put our recently learned life saving skills into action than on the beach after being pushed to our physical limits."

"HOC, 715th MI Battalion broke the code on maximizing all available training and land resources here on Oahu to ensure that all Soldiers receive the most



Soldiers from Headquarters and Operations Company carry a training dummy during a medical obstacle training, April 20, at Bellows Air Force Station.

realistic and combat proven tactical training procedures for evaluating a casualty and providing life saving measures," said Lt. Col. David Perrine, commander of the 715th MI Battalion. "Such training will continue to prepare all battalion Soldiers when they are called on to deploy to theater to conduct signals intelligence and mission support to Brigade Combat Teams conducting combat operations."

The course was conducted by multiple teams of five Soldiers and was comprised of seven scenarios.

The first scenario required two Soldiers to sustain simulated wounds while the rest of the team identified the injury and treated the wounded. Once this task was completed to standard the Soldiers sprinted 400 meters to the second station where they employed hand grenades at a target. This station was followed by another 400 meter sprint down to the beach and the teams buddy carried two 165 pound medical mannequins 100 meters across the sand.

Station four incorporated a 50 meter buddy carry across Bellows beach.

The fifth station was a 150 meter swim around a lifeguard in the Pacific Ocean. Once the fatigued Soldiers reached the shore they grabbed weapons and low crawled 50 meters across the beach while

trainers lobbed simulated grenades at the soaked and tired Soldiers.

"By the time we got to the low crawl I was physically exhausted but all I could think about was helping my team finish with the fastest time," said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Gardiner, assigned to HOC.

Station seven was a litter carry in which one of the team member was on the litter while the other four carried them and sprinted the final 50 meters up the beach to the finish line. To add a little competition and urgency to the scenario each team was accompanied by a trainer and a timer which completed the first iteration of the obstacle course.

In order to truly maximize physical endurance and reinforce the extremely important lessons from the medical training each Soldier was required to complete the circuit a minimum of two times.

"We carried 165 pound dummies across sand on the beach then buddy-carried each other farther down the beach," said Spc. John Brenner, assigned to HOC. "I literally fell flat on my face with SFC Gardiner on my back. We both stood back up, he hopped back on my back and we finished the mission. It wasn't until after we crossed the line that we wiped the sand off our faces. Hooah!"

Training to Lead: WLC Prep



A Soldier calls for a halt using hand and arm signals during a foot patrol. Nonverbal communication skills can be critical in a tactical environment.

Story by Master Sgt. David Clubb
715th Military Intelligence Battalion

The 715th Military Intelligence Battalion has been conducting their Warrior Development Course (WDC) for the last three years.

WDC is a week-long preparatory course for the Warrior Leader Course. WDC is designed to refresh basic Soldier skills that may have gone dormant and introduce new skills to Soldiers in order to prepare them for WLC. All Soldiers in the battalion that are scheduled to attend WLC attend WDC within 90 days prior to going to WLC.

WDC is taught by noncommissioned officers within the battalion, and conducted once a month. The curriculum is designed to reinforce basic Soldier and leadership skills. Soldiers are evaluated on conducting Physical Readiness Training, drill and ceremony, in-ranks inspections and Warrior Tasks and Drills. The hands-on por-

tion culminates with students conducting a battle drill exercise.

In the classroom, Soldiers are taught Composite Risk Management, tactical reports, supply procedures, Full Spectrum Operations, Operations Orders, Troop Leading Procedures, Army Correspondence, counseling, noncommissioned officer evaluation reports and award writing. The classroom portion ends with students providing oral presentations on Army history. As an added benefit, Soldiers are exposed to small group training environment that is utilized at all NCO schools throughout the Army. The program's success is apparent on graduation day. On average, half of the battalion's graduates find themselves on the Commandant's List. Over the past six months, the battalion has also had a distinguished honor graduate and a warrior of the cycle. These results are due in large part to the dedication of the bat-

talion's NCOs who, are a testament to the high caliber of Soldiers that are assigned to the battalion. After graduating, Soldiers are asked to come back and conduct an After Action Review with WDC cadre. This assists the cadre in keeping the course current and relevant.

"The one thing I noticed right off the bat at WLC is that the training that we did at WDC put us ahead of everybody else," said Sgt. Joy Turpin, Alpha Company, 715th MI Battalion, who is a recent graduate. "When it came to sitting in the classes about leadership, NCOERs, knowing what an award was, knowing what a counseling looked like and how it should be filled out because students who didn't have any experience with it were staying up until 11 p.m. trying to figure that stuff out where us, MI students that had done WDC, were going to bed by 8 p.m. every night because we already knew what we were doing."

301st MI Battalion Braves the De

Story by CW2 Charles Haas
301st MI Battalion

Elements of the 301st Military Intelligence Battalion straggled back on May 15th to their reserve center by convoy serials of four and five vehicles and began the arduous process of recovering their equipment from the year's annual training event.

With the sun beating down and the temperature rising up, Soldiers begin to unload their vehicles. It's organized chaos. Soldiers are moving around everywhere doing grunt work, but with night approaching, in short order the tasks are complete and the final formation is held. Another annual training is completed.

This year's mission was designed to evaluate the battalion's capability to conduct safe and responsible movements to and from the Arizona National Guard Training Area in Florence, Ariz. and conduct Lanes Training Exercises emphasizing convoy operations in a hostile environment. Each company was graded on the ability to perform voice communications, react to direct fire while mounted, react to indirect fire while mounted, react to an Improvised Explosive Device, and casualty transportation. Opposing Forces, organized by Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, used paint guns and simulators to provide hazards.

The first week of training focused on field preparation and classroom instruction.

Equipment was staged, vehicles were given an "once-over", final planning was conducted and like Army doctrine regarding training, the battalion began their training with the "crawl, walk, run" concept. Experienced noncommissioned officers provided classroom instruction to the Soldiers on everything from 9-line MEDEVAC requests and SALUTE reports over the radio to evaluating a casualty and evacuating them by vehicle.

Every classroom instruction episode was reinforced with hands-on evaluation of the instruction provided. This time also allowed the full-time staff to take a more supportive role and provide the Troop

Program Unit Soldiers leadership opportunities.

With preparation week complete, it was time for the "Hellspawns" of HHD to move to the field to conduct more training and prepare the training battlespace for the rest of the battalion expected to arrive during the upcoming monthly battle assembly weekend. Upon arrival to the training area, the Soldiers quickly set to establishing the Tactical Operation Center, sleeping areas and Mobile Kitchen Trailer expected to provide the hot meals that keep morale high. Using the Very Small Aperture Terminal and PRC-150 radios, the battalion communications staff was able to setup the TOC with both voice and data networks supporting staff functions and commanders' intent. The afternoon was dedicated to conducting Land Navigation training and the lanes preparation.

The day before the rest of the battalion arrived, HHD Soldiers visited the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer. The HEAT trainer, a stand-alone training device, simulates rollover of armored vehicles



A 301st MI Battalion Soldier reacts to enemy contact by returning fire during the battalions annual training. The it's annual training by evaluating its capability to mobilize and conduct movement operations to and from the Ar Training Area in Florence, Ariz.

Desert, Completes Annual Training



A Soldier evaluates a wounded warrior during the 301st Military Intelligence Battalion's annual training at the Arizona National Guard Training Area.

battalion conducted
Arizona National Guard



HHD Soldiers wait their turn to be briefed prior to conducting lane training

and looks much like a turkey on a barbecue rotisserie. The HEAT trainer exposes trainees to real rollover conditions and forces that they would encounter during a vehicle rollover. Video cameras record up to four soldiers experiencing the various degree angles the trainers put them through. Many times the trainers would completely flip the simulator upside-down and evaluate the ability of the Soldiers to extricate themselves timely and safely. "It's more challenging than it looks." Soldiers could be also heard saying the training was helpful and provided them confidence to survive if the situation ever occurred in a real-time environment," said Spc. Kevin Engle, assigned to HHD 301st MI Battalion.

Following HEAT training, the Soldiers donned protective gear, armed themselves with paint guns, and convoyed through the lanes scenarios. Instructors and observers reinforced training goals with on the spot



Soldiers braved the scorching desert heat during training.

corrections and scenario updates. Since HHD would be providing the OPFOR for the rest of the battalion, this iteration helped define their objectives and level of realism. The After Action Review identified how OPFOR would behave, what ambush sites were best, the roles of OPFOR civilians and rules of engagement.

"This was a great opportunity to see

where we stand as a detachment and will go far to providing the rest of the battalion with stressful, realistic training environment," Sgt. 1st Class Robert Willis, assigned to HHD, 301st MI Battalion.

Over the next couple of days, convoy serials of five vehicles were loaded with excited Soldiers "itchin" for some trigger time and head off for an hour of decision making challenges. At the first scenario the convoy encounters an Unexploded Ordnance and has to dismount, pull proper security and call in a report. Scenario two has the convoy enter a marketplace where OPFOR make attempts to deliver an explosive into a vehicle. Direct fire was introduced and the convoy has to go through their rules of engagement decision making process. After proceeding from the marketplace the convoy encountered an IED. Observers indicated to the convoy commander that one of the vehicles was disabled and they had taken a casualty.

Reports were submitted by radio to the

TOC, the casualty is provided first aid and transferred to another vehicle and all other members of the disabled vehicle are forced to complete the lane on foot. At this point OPFOR came alive with direct and indirect fire. A firefight ensued and the convoy commander was forced to decide upon fighting it out or fighting through. This had been the moment many of the Soldiers had been looking for and few were disappointed.

Rumor has it that the signals officer informed OPFOR to the timing and location of the battalion commander as he made his way through the lane with the last serial.

As the convoy serials returned to the TOC, tell-tale signs of combat covered their vehicles and equipment. Soldiers recanted their stories of successes and shortcomings. Equipment is secured, cleaned and put away. After Action Reviews are conducted by the whole convoy to highlight learning opportunities and provide feedback. The AARs proved significant in providing multiple viewpoints and decisions experienced throughout the training environment.

HHD's 2011 LTX ended with a steak dinner provided in the field by the detachment's cooks, which was readily received by the

hungry Soldiers.

With full bellies and high morale, the Soldiers were treated to a congratulatory message from the battalion leadership regarding their participation and hard work involved in bringing about a successful training event.

The final event before movement back to the reserve center was a U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony. Cpl. Matthew Brewer, assigned to HHD, 301st MI Battalion, recovered the flag from the reserve center on the day HHD went to the field. The flag was beginning to show signs of wear and needed to be replaced. After dinner Soldiers gathered around a fire and prepared to honorably retire the flag. It was disassembled into each of its parts of blue field and red and white stripes.

With a prayer said and solemn words spoken, each stripe was placed into the fire according to the roll call of the original thirteen states followed lastly by the field of blue.

As the flames began to smolder to hot embers, Soldiers too began to retire for the evening. In the morning they would head for home.



The Soldiers of HHD, 301st MI Bn take a moment to pose for a photo.

441st MI Battalion Hosts the Asi

Story by Spc. Jacob Sieblod

441st Military Intelligence Battalion

On May 18th, the 441st Military Intelligence Battalion hosted the United States Army-Japan Asian-Pacific Heritage Observance at Camp Zama.

While this observance is only a part in a series of cultural celebrations sponsored by USARJ throughout the year—including observances honoring African-American, Native American, Hispanic, and women's histories—the USARJ Asian-Pacific Heritage observance takes on special meaning in Japan.

“Asian-Pacific Heritage is always the largest and most anticipated cultural observance here on Camp Zama,” said Sgt. 1st Class Philip Chang, event coordinator. “Being in Japan we have such an exposure to not only Japanese culture, but the whole spectrum of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures as well. Here on post we have robust clubs such as Hula O’Hawaii and the Filipino American Association that contribute immeasurably to this celebration. Even some of the smaller, lesser known island nations like Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia are all represented here within the Camp Zama community.”

Attendees were exposed to various facets of Asian-Pacific culture including traditional music, dance, martial arts and food.

“Nothing against the dining facility, but the food at Asian-Pacific beats any of those short order sandwiches or lunch at the food court,” said Pfc. Andrew Flor, assigned to the 715th MI Bn.

The potluck menu at the observance featured japchae from Korea, Filipino pancit, a little bit of haupia with kalua pig, and a few Japanese staples such as sushi and gyoza.



Soldiers and their families sample different foods from different cultures.

While indulging in this smorgasbord of Asian delicacies, the Camp Zama community took in a series of demonstrations including a Hawaiian ukulele band, a samurai kata, and the Filipino American Association performing the traditional Filipino flower dance.

“It’s a great event because it really brings the community together,” said Cpt. Jennifer Medley, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment. “It’s an honor for us at the 441st to host this event, and we have a history with USARJ of putting on exceptional observances in the past. This year may top the rest.”

One of the exhibits unique to this year’s celebration was a display honoring the achievements of the 442nd Combat Infantry Regiment.

The 442nd, an all Japanese-American unit that served in during World War II, served with uncommon distinction and became the most highly decorated regiment in U.S. Army history.

“The story of the 442nd is remarkable, and yet, still widely unknown,” Chang said. “I think it’s important that we use this event not just to entertain but also to educate, and the story of the 442nd is a poignant example of Asian-Americans serving their country with distinction.”

The day culminated with a speech by the keynote speaker Steven Wong of the Pacific Liaison Detachment.

Wong shared some of the lessons he learned not only in



Traditional music and dance included elaborate costumes from around the globe.

Pan-Pacific Heritage Observance



Children dance with the Hawaiian instrument known as the 'uli'uli.

his military career and government service, but also from his childhood as part of a Chinese family living in Jamaica.

“My ethnic background presented some challenges at times, but I focused on proving myself through my work, being an expert in my field, and being a leader in whatever organization I found myself in,” Wong said. “As a leader you have to learn to follow at times, you have to be competent; You have to focus on building the team. But most importantly, no matter where you come from you have to be yourself.”



Women perform the hula, a dance form native to Hawaii that tells a story using the hands.

500th Military Intelligence Brigade Sold

*Story by 2nd Lt. Cassandra Spencer
500th Military Intelligence Brigade*

For the second year in a row, a 500th Military Intelligence Brigade Soldier has won the USARPAC Paralegal Challenge. In an award ceremony held on September 23rd, Spc. Allan Mayberry was recognized as the top paralegal in a competition that hosted Soldiers from Hawaii, Japan, Alaska, and Virginia.

The competition began with a preliminary round held in August. During this round of competition, Spc. Mayberry placed second.

"I wasn't surprised that I got second place because I know I didn't do quite as well on the board. I was prepared to not win or not be able to go [to the finals]," Mayberry said.

The final competition of the USARPAC Paralegal Challenge was held over the course of a week in September. Competition kicked off with an APFT held at Wheeler Army Airfield.

Soldiers only had a short period of time to shower and change, and afterwards they faced a day of grueling exams that tested their knowledge in a variety of paralegal related topics.

Most of the tests required Soldiers to review documents including Article 15's and Memorandums. Soldiers carefully examined the materials in order to find any errors. The last test was a 100 question exam that asked Soldiers to answer questions correctly and also cite the reference where the answer came from.

The following day, Soldiers arrived at Ft. Shafter and were tested on their Warrior Tasks. Junior Soldiers were paired with a Noncommissioned Officer and together they competed in a variety of challenges that tested their skills such as first aid and performing a functions check on an M-16. Other stations tested the Soldier's confidence and ability to answer questions such as listing the Army Values and saying what each one meant to them.

The final part of the competition was a board. Knowing that he had large shoes to fill with Sgt. Gary Thomas winning the year prior, Spc. Mayberry took advantage of the time between the preliminaries and the final round and prepared himself.

"We did a couple of mock boards a



Spc. Mayberry reviews how to perform a functions check on an M-16 during the Warrior Tasks portion of the competition.

couple days before the actual board. I think that really helped me to improve. I was a lot more confident because I knew the information; it was just being able to perform."

The competition ended with an awards dinner held at the Nehelani Club on Schofield Barracks. As the competitors lined up at the front, the anticipation in the room grew as the winners were announced.

"I was kind of nervous. I could hear my heartbeat, that's how nervous I was,"



Cpt. Timothy Green, HHD Company Commander, presenting

Sgt. Mayberry Wins USARPAC Paralegal Challenge



Spc. Mayberry receives an award from Col. Pamela M. Harms, USARPAC's Staff Judge Advocate .



ng newly promoted Sgt. Mayberry with his promotion orders.

Mayberry said.

Once his name was announced, Spc. Mayberry received several prizes as well as being awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

That same day, he also learned that he had made the points cutoff for promotion to Sergeant. On September 30th, Spc. Mayberry became Sgt. Mayberry and was presented with the Brigade coin by Lt. Col. Christopher Sweeney, Deputy Brigade Commander. Cpt. Norberto Daluz, Command Judge Advocate for the 500th MI Brigade, said:

"There isn't a paralegal more deserving of this accolade than SPC Mayberry. He came to the 500th knowing he had some big shoes to fill. He met the challenge head-on, diligently applied himself, and brought home the prize for a second year in a row."

When asked about how his experiences at the 500th MI Brigade have molded him,

Spc. Mayberry says, "From the First Sergeant to the Commander on down, if you see the type of NCO's we have, they all strive to be the best and they do their best to help you out. Being in this particular unit it feels like you have the resources to be successful."





441st MI Battalion Strong Bonds Retreat

Story by Spc. Gabriel Rosales
441st Military Intelligence Battalion

From June 20th-22nd, Soldiers and family members of the 441st Military Intelligence Battalion participated in the Strong Bonds Retreat, hosted by Chaplain Younsoo Park and Chaplain Sharon Browne from the 441st and 78th Signal Battalion respectively, at the Hilton Tokyo Bay Hotel. Designed to help couples strengthen their relationships, the retreat gave the Families a reprieve from the hectic pace of military life and allowed them to focus on reconnecting with loved ones.

"Many of these Families have endured difficult times," said 441st chaplain 1st Lt. Younsoo Park. "We have been an Army at war for a long time. Not only have many of these Soldiers sacrificed—multiple deployments for many of them—but so have these Families. This Strong Bonds Retreat is a way for them to rekindle marriages, reconnect with children; take a few days to make sure that the family unit is strong at home."

Chaplains Park and Browne provided not

only spiritual assistance, but also tangible relationship advice, giving couples tools to sort through domestic issues and techniques to improve communication skills. The reaction from couples was positive, and many of them said that the retreat allowed them an opportunity to work through relationship issues, while also providing them with a framework to constructively work through problems down the road. But for many Families, what they needed was just some time together.

"The child care offered throughout the retreat really gave me and my spouse time to reconnect," said Capt. Brendan Ly, 441st Special Projects Officer. "With my schedule it can be difficult to find a baby sitter. Just being able to go to dinner by ourselves is one of those simple things that we haven't been able to do in a long time."

The children were not left out, though. The Hilton Tokyo Bay Hotel is a part of the Tokyo Disney resort and provides transportation to both the Tokyo Disney and the Disney Sea amusement parks.

"Our primary goal is to equip these Families with the skills needed to improve their relationships, but we also want to provide them with a relaxing and fun atmosphere," Chaplain Park explained. "Tokyo Disney is a great place for this type of event, and from the response we got from many of the participants, they really enjoyed the time they spent here."

"Hopefully they are able to take some of the things they learned here at the retreat home with them. These events are important. Sometimes with hectic schedules we forget to emphasize the importance of maintaining our relationships, but our loved ones at home sustain us during difficult times. The Strong Bonds Retreat strengthens our Soldiers and our unit by ensuring that those relationships remain a healthy source of support. Mission readiness begins at home. We see these retreats as opportunities to help keep our Soldiers fit, mentally and spiritually, so that they can successfully complete any mission that comes their way, here or overseas."

Welcome LTC Doug Edwards! Commander of the 205th MI Battalion!



GOT PHOTOS?



Soldiers from Brigade HHD train for convoy operations

The Vanguard is always looking for high quality photo submissions to use in our publication including the back cover. We like to feature all of the beautiful places our Brigade operates so please send your submissions to the BDE PAO, 2LT Cassandra Spencer, at cassandra.spencer@mi.army.mil. Be sure to include a caption and contact information along with any photos submitted.

Mahalo to Catherine Mulconrey for sharing her photo of Mt. Fuji, featured on our back cover!

Welcome to Japan

*Home of the 441st Military Intelligence Battalion,
part of the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade*

